

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

PATRICK COUNTY WILDFIRE

SITUATION REPORT # 6

1500 Hours April 20, 2006

New Information in Bold Italics

This is the Final Situation Report that will be issued for this Incident.

SUMMARY

Patrick County and Virginia Department of Forestry resources are fighting a wildfire on Bull Mountain that began on 14 April and has burned an estimated 4000 acres, destroyed 3 homes, 6 structures, and personal property. The estimated value of lost property is \$500,000. The fire on Bull Mountain forced the evacuation of 40 families. The fire is being managed utilizing a Unified Command at VDOT's field office on US 57 West of Elamsville. Over 100 homes and numerous other structures and vehicles were protected as a result of actions taken by the Virginia Department of Forestry and fire departments.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Status: The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition.

State of Emergency: On April 15, 2006, Governor Timothy M. Kaine declared a state of emergency to exist for Patrick County to assist in responding to this wildfire. Governor Kaine directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to assist in Patrick County to alleviate adverse conditions created by the wildfire.

Federal Declaration: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 3, advised that they received approval for a Fire Management Assistance Grant. Declaration number 2637. FEMA/State agreement is being executed.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared: Patrick County declared a local emergency on April 15, 2006.

WEATHER

Forecast: ***Patrick County: NWS Blacksburg – Thursday 20 April – Mostly sunny; high temperatures in the low 80s; light and variable winds. Thursday Night – Mostly cloudy; 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms; some thunderstorms may produce heavy rainfall after midnight; low temperatures in the mid 50s; light and variable winds. Friday 21 April – Showers and thunderstorms likely; 60% chance of rain; high temperatures in the mid 70s; light and variable winds becoming South around 10 MPH in the afternoon.***

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: VDEM Local Support Services Division Region Six Coordinator is on scene.

Legislative Liaison: Distributing situation reports to legislators in affected localities and to Congressman Boucher's office.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 4 – Firefighting: Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)
The VDOF has an Incident Management Team, **70** personnel, three bulldozers and two helicopters assisting with fire suppression. ***Fire is contained at 95 percent and***

once back burns of approximately 30 acres are completed during the afternoon of 20 April they will officially declared the fire fully contained at 100%. VDOF reported today that once the fire is fully contained the total acreage lost will be 3,696 acres. Unified Command has begun the demobilization process for some of the resources and that is projected to continue over the next 24 hours. VA Dept. of Fire Programs Division 6 Chief providing Mobile Incident Support. VDOF is utilizing cabins at the VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation's Fairystone State Park facility as shelters for VDOF personnel. VDOF Water Quality Program Manager has been assigned to the incident to put together the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) plan for the areas on Bull Mountain that have been disturbed by fire control activities. The primary area of concern is to stabilize the fire breaks that have been constructed to reduce the overall environmental impact of the suppression work along with the areas burned. VDOF is also implementing a unique first-ever project to help the local community mitigate any potential for damage due to soil erosion of the impacted areas around the fire. The project, "Help Heal the Bull," will allow homeowners and landowners on Bull Mountain to go to one of the cooperating local fire departments and pick up a beneficial grass seed mix which can be sowed on any exposed areas and will ensure that Bull Mountain is able to quickly heal itself from the impacts of the fire. This program, funded by VDOF, provides the seed at no cost to homeowners and landowners.

ESF 13 - Public Safety & Security:

Virginia Department of Military Affairs/National Guard (VDMA/VNG)

Governor Kaine authorized mobilization of 46 National Guard soldiers to assist Patrick County and VDOF with fire suppression activities and evacuation. The National Guard personnel were released from state active duty at approximately 1200 hours 18 April.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation:

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

VDOT is assisting with road closures as requested by the Incident Management Team and the VDOT Residency Shop in Stuart, Virginia is being utilized as the Incident Command Post.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support:

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC coordinated requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies. Verizon supplied a communication tower and telephones at the Incident Command (IC) post.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

All Patrick County residents have been permitted to return to their homes. In addition to VDOF and Incident Management personnel, local and neighboring fire departments include **60** personnel on scene.